State of Louisiana
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
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POLICY NAME: INTEROPERABLE CHANNELS AND TALKGROUPS POLICY

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Interoperable Channels and Talkgroups Policy

I. Purpose

The Purpose of this Policy is to establish procedures for programming of statewide interoperable channels and talkgroups into subscriber units and the use of the interoperable channels and talkgroups during day-to-day and emergency use.

II. 700/800 MHz Interoperability Talkgroups and Channels

In order to provide interoperability with first responder units from throughout the state and nation, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) requires that all 700 MHz radio subscriber units operating under the Louisiana state license or licensed under the Region 18 Plan will have the following 800 MHz conventional channels listed in Section E and 700 MHz channels/talkgroups programmed:

A. Statewide 700 MHz Band Public Safety Interoperability Talkgroups Channels

Subscriber units will be programmed with the following 700 MHz band first responder statewide interoperability talkgroups:

DESIGNATOR	USE
*STATE-1	DEDICATED STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*STATE-2	DEDICATED STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*STATE-3	DEDICATED STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*STATE-4	DEDICATED STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-1	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-2	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-3	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY

DESIGNATOR	USE
*INTEROP-4	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-5	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-6	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-7	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-8	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-9	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-10	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*R1-COORDCALL	REGION 1 CALLING
*R1-COORDTK-1	REGION 1 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R1-COORDTK-2	REGION 1 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R1-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 1 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R1-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 1 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R2-COORDCALL	REGION 2 CALLING
*R2-COORDTK-1	REGION 2 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R2-COORDTK-2	REGION 2 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R2-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 2 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R2-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 2 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R3-COORDCALL	REGION 3 CALLING
*R3-COORDTK-1	REGION 3 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R3-COORDTK-2	REGION 3 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R3-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 3 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R3-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 3 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R4-COORDCALL	REGION 4 CALLING
*R4-COORDTK-1	REGION 4 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R4-COORDTK-2	REGION 4 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R4-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 4 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R4-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 4 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R5-COORDCALL	REGION 5 CALLING
*R5-COORDTK-1	REGION 5 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R5-COORDTK-2	REGION 5INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R5-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 5 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R5-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 5 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R6-COORDCALL	REGION 6 CALLING
*R6-COORDTK-1	REGION 6 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R6-COORDTK-2	REGION 6 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R6-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 6 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R6-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 6 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK

DESIGNATOR	USE
*R7-COORDCALL	REGION 7 CALLING
*R7-COORDTK-1	REGION 7INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R7-COORDTK-2	REGION 7 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R7-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 7 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R7-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 7 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R8-COORDCALL	REGION 8 CALLING
*R8-COORDTK-1	REGION 8 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R8-COORDTK-2	REGION 8 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R8-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 8 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R8-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 8 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R9-COORDCALL	REGION 9 CALLING
*R9-COORDTK-1	REGION 9 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R9-COORDTK-2	REGION 9 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R9-BOLO (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 9 BOLO ANNOUNCEMENT & DISPATCHER TO DISPATCHER ONLY
*R9-TACTICAL (LAW ENFORCEMENT RADIOS ONLY)	REGION 9 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY TALK

B. Minimum requirements

In order to accommodate subscriber units with a limited talkgroup capacity, the SIEC has identified the following talkgroups as a minimum requirement for all LWIN subscriber units with the capacity for less than 200 talkgroups per radio.

DESIGNATOR	USE
*INTEROP-1	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-2	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-3	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-4	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-5	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-6	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-7	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-8	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*INTEROP-9	LOCAL/STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY
*R(region number)-COORDCALL	REGION (region number) CALLING
*R(region number)-COORDTK-1	REGION (region number) INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*R(region number)-COORDTK-2	REGION (region number) INTEROPERABILITY TALK
*(PARISH)-1	DEDICATED (PARISH) INTEROPERABILITY
*(PARISH)-2	DEDICATED (PARISH) INTEROPERABILITY
*(PARISH)-3	DEDICATED (PARISH) INTEROPERABILITY
*(PARISH)-4	DEDICATED (PARISH) INTEROPERABILITY

The ten mutual aid conventional channels detailed in section F of this policy must be programmed in every mobile and portable radio.

C. Statewide Band Use

The SIEC has designated that all first responder interoperable communications occurring in Regions where equipment exist will utilize the statewide 700 MHz system. In addition, the statewide analog 800 MHz system remains operational in these Regions as an alternate means of interoperable communications; therefore, the SIEC encourages first responder units to also monitor the 800 MHz system to facilitate assistance to agencies who do not have 700 MHz capable radios.

The 700 MHz system talkgroups will be programmed by denoting an asterisk (*) followed by the talkgroup identifier. In verbal communications, this asterisk is referred to using the word "STAR" (i.e. "switch to STAR R1-COORDCALL). This will help avoid confusion between similar named talkgroups in the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems. When the word "STAR" is heard, this means the 700 MHz system.

The SIEC has designated that all first responder interoperable communications occurring in Regions where there is no equipment capable of 700 MHz; the Regions will utilize the statewide 800 MHz system until the 700 MHz system is completed by the end of 2008. The state will notify all Regions, and update this policy as the 700 MHz Phase statewide build out is completed.

The 800 MHz system will be labeled with a talkgroup identifier, but no asterisk.

D. Interoperability Calling Talkgroups

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with designated interoperability calling talkgroups as listed above in Section II. The SIEC has designated the "calling" talkgroup for each Region as COORDCALL. The appropriate calling talkgroup will be continuously monitored by all first responder agency dispatch centers operating on either the 800 MHz or 700 MHz systems. First responder agencies requesting mutual aid assistance from other local or state agency first responders will utilize the calling talkgroup to make initial contact with the assisting agency. Once the assisting agency(s) have been contacted, the Incident Commander will assign an interoperability talkgroup(s) and/or channel(s).

Designated Calling Talkgroups:

Region	800 MHz Calling Channel	700 MHz Calling Channel
1	B-COORDCALL	*R1- COORDCALL
2	A- COORDCALL	*R2- COORDCALL
3	C- COORDCALL	*R3- COORDCALL
4	I- COORDCALL	*R4- COORDCALL
5	D- COORDCALL	*R5- COORDCALL
6	E- COORDCALL	*R6- COORDCALL
7	G- COORDCALL	*R7- COORDCALL
8	F- COORDCALL	*R8- COORDCALL
9	L- COORDCALL	*R9- COORDCALL

E. Interoperability Talkgroups

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with designated statewide interoperability channels and talkgroups. The SIEC has designated that during emergency events, whether local, regional or statewide, the Incident Commander will determine talkgroup/channel assignments and that these assignments will take precedence over other assignments for non emergency events.

The requesting agency upon making contact with the assisting agency(s) will then direct their radio traffic to either COORDTK-1 or COORDTK-2 within their region as designated by the Incident Commander. In the event that COORDTK-1 or COORDTK-2 is being utilized, the requesting agency can utilize any of the four parish talkgroups or ten INTEROP talkgroups that are not being utilized.

1) Local Talkgroups:

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with four designated talkgroups for the parish in which the first responder agency resides. In addition, the subscriber units are programmed with the four parish talkgroups for each of the parishes within their designated region. The parish talkgroups are available to first responder agencies for day-to-day and emergency operations requiring multi-agency communications within the parish; in addition to use for localized events in which agencies outside of their parish provide assistance. Parishes are encouraged to develop their own internal standard operating procedures use of the parish talkgroups

2) Regional Talkgroups:

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with each of the nine Regional COORDCALL and COORDTK-1 and COORDTK-2 channels.   For Law Enforcement Agencies only, the subscriber units are programmed with each of the nine Regional BOLO and Tactical Channels.

While the Regional COORDCAL is a calling channel, in which requesting agencies can call other first responder agencies monitoring the calling channel, the COORDTK groups are designated for regional day-to-day and emergency operations that require multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional and multi-parish response.

The incident commander will make the determination on whether to utilize the four designated parish talkgroups in which the incident is occurring or the regional COORDTK groups for that region based on the size and communication requirements of the incident.

For large scale events, the incident commander is encouraged to utilize ICS Form 205 (Appendix J), Incident Radio Communications Plan, to assist in the assignment and use of talkgroups.

3) Statewide Talkgroups

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with four STATE talkgroups. These four talkgroups are designated for State agency to State agency use only. State agencies will utilize the Regional COORDCAL talkgroups to call another state agency for assistance.

For multi-state agency response the incident commander will designate the use of the STATE talkgroups. For large scale events, the incident commander is encouraged to utilize ICS Form 205 (Appendix J), Incident Radio Communications Plan, to assist in the assignment and use of talkgroups.

> Example: GOHSEP EOC requests assistance from Troop L, GOHSEP EOC would call Troop L on *R9-CRDCAL and then the GOHSEP EOC incident commander would direct them to an appropriate STATE talkgroup

4) Interoperable Talkgroups

All subscriber units operating on the 800 MHz and 700 MHz systems will be programmed with ten INTEROP channels.   These channels are

available to both local and state agency first responders in the event additional talkgroups are required at the local, regional and/or state level. Due to the potential for multiple events going on at once, incident commanders are encouraged not to use more than three of the INTEROP channels during an event.

5) Monitoring of Talkgroups/Eavesdropping

All local, regional, state and interoperable talkgroups are designated for either day-to-day or emergency operations. First responder agencies that are not directly involved in an event or incident should not monitor (eavesdrop) on those talkgroups, due to the potential to tie up multiple repeaters and add unnecessary congestion on the statewide system, resulting in busy radio signals. As such, these interoperable channels and talkgroups are to only be utilized for first responder agencies directly involved with the response.

Statewide P25 System Regional Fleet Maps are attached as Appendices:

REGION	APPENDIX
Region 1	Appendix A
Region 2	Appendix B
Region 3	Appendix C
Region 4	Appendix D
Region 5	Appendix E
Region 6	Appendix F
Region 7	Appendix G
Region 8	Appendix H
Region 9	Appendix I

F. Nationwide 800 MHz Band Public Safety Interoperability Channels

All 700 MHz radio subscriber units operating under the Louisiana state license or licensed under the Region 18 Plan, as well as all 800 MHz public safety subscriber units, will be programmed with the National 800 MHz conventional analog mutual aid channels in repeater mode as well as the direct talk around mode as follows:

DESIGNATOR (POST-REBANDING)	DESIGNATOR (PRE-REBANDING)	USE	MOBILE/PORTABLE TRANSMIT FREQUENCY	MOBILE/PORTABLE RECEIVE FREQUENCY	CTCSS (TONE SQUELCH) FREQUENCY
8CALL90	ICALL	CALLING, ESTABLISHING CONTACT ONLY IN REPEATER NETWORKS	821.0125 MHz.	866.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC91	ITAC1	TACTICAL REPEATER	821.5125 MHz.	866.5125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC92	ITAC2	TACTICAL REPEATER	822.0125 MHz	867.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC93	ITAC3	TACTICAL REPEATER	822.5125 MHz.	867.5125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC94	ITAC4	TACTICAL REPEATER	823.0125 MHz.	868.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8CALL90D	ICALLD	CALLING, ESTABLISHING CONTACT ONLY IN SIMPLEX NETWORKS	866.0125 MHz.	866.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC91D	ITAC1D	TACTICAL SIMPLEX	866.5125 MHz.	866.5125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC92D	ITAC2D	TACTICAL SIMPLEX	867.0125 MHz.	867.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC93D	ITAC3D	TACTICAL SIMPLEX	867.5125 MHz.	867.5125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.
8TAC94D	ITAC4D	TACTICAL SIMPLEX	868.0125 MHz.	868.0125 MHz.	156.7 Hz.

- The Federal Communications Commission's 800 MHz rebanding order requires all such 700 MHz and 800 MHz radio subscriber units to be reprogrammed with the new rebanded mutual aid frequencies which are 15 MHz lower than those shown in the preceding table.

G. Statewide 800 MHz Band Public Safety Interoperability Channels

Subscriber units that are programmed for the Statewide 800 MHz SmartZone system shall be programmed with the following interoperability talkgroups:

DESIGNATOR	USE
B-COORDCALL	REGION 1 CALLING
B-COORDTK-1	REGION 1 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
B-COORDTK-2	REGION 1 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
A-COORDCALL	REGION 2 CALLING
A-COORDTK-1	REGION 2 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
A-COORDTK-2	REGION 2 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
C-COORDCALL	REGION 3 CALLING
C-COORDTK-1	REGION 3 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
C-COORDTK-2	REGION 3 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
I-COORDCALL	REGION 4 CALLING
I-COORDTK-1	REGION 4 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
I-COORDTK-2	REGION 4 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
D-COORDCALL	REGION 5 CALLING
D-COORDTK-1	REGION 5 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
D-COORDTK-2	REGION 5INTEROPERABILITY TALK
E-COORDCALL	REGION 6 CALLING
E-COORDTK-1	REGION 6 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
E-COORDTK-2	REGION 6 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
G-COORDCALL	REGION 7 CALLING
G-COORDTK-1	REGION 7INTEROPERABILITY TALK
G-COORDTK-2	REGION 7 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
F-COORDCALL	REGION 8 CALLING
F-COORDTK-1	REGION 8 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
F-COORDTK-2	REGION 8 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
L-COORDCALL	REGION 9 CALLING
L-COORDTK-1	REGION 9 INTEROPERABILITY TALK
L-COORDTK-2	REGION 9 INTEROPERABILITY TALK

III. SmartNet 800 MHz Site on Wheels (SOW)

To provide additional interoperable communication capabilities with first responder units from throughout the state, the statewide interoperability executive committee recommends that all 700 MHz and 800 MHz radio subscriber units be programmed for the State's SmartNet 800 MHz SOW. The SOW is available to be deployed during emergency events.

CONVENTIONAL	USE
SPECIAL 6	LOCAL AND STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY TALK
SPECIAL 7	LOCAL AND STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY TALK
SPECIAL 8	LOCAL AND STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY TALK
SPECIAL 13	LOCAL AND STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY TALK
SPECIAL 14	LOCAL AND STATE AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY TALK

IV. VHF/UHF Interoperability Channels

To provide interoperability with first responder units from throughout the State and Nation, the SIEC recommends all VHF and UHF public safety subscriber units have the following channels programmed in analog mode:

VHF BAND:

DESIGNATOR	FREQUENCY	MODE	USE
VCALL10	155.7525 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY CALLING
VTAC11	151.1375 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
VTAC12	154.4525 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
VTAC13	158.7375 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
VTAC14	159.4725 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
VFIRE21	154.2800 MHz.	SIMPLEX	FIRE MUTUAL AID
VMED28 (HEAR)	155.3400 MHz.	SIMPLEX	INTEROPERABILITY WITH HOSPITALS AND AMBULANCES
VLAW31	155.4750 MHz.	SIMPLEX	LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEROPERABILITY

UHF BAND:

DESIGNATOR	FREQUENCY	MODE	USE
UCALL40 UCALL40D	453.2125 MHz. 458.2125 MHz.	base/mobile mobile	INTEROPERABILITY CALLING
UTAC41 UTAC41D	453.4625 MHz. 458.4625 MHz.	base/mobile mobile	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
UTAC42 UTAC42D	453.7125 MHz. 458.7125 MHz.	base/mobile mobile	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS
UTAC43 UTAC43D	453.8625 MHz. 458.8625 MHz.	base/mobile mobile	INTEROPERABILITY OPERATIONS

V. Common Language Protocol

To provide interoperability among first responder agencies at the local, state, and national level, only plain English language shall be used when communicating on any interoperability talkgroup or channel. In order to avoid confusion or misunderstanding, 10-codes, incident codes or signals, etc. are not to be used on these talkgroups or channels.

VI. Encryption

Encryption shall not be used on any talkgroup or channel listed in this policy.